

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05872 181321Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02  
L-01 PRS-01 EB-04 /040 W  
-----082316 181940Z /44  
R 181245Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7920

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5872

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: USTSJC TS  
SUBJ: NEXT MEETING OF US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

1. DURING CALL AUGUST 17 ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER TURKI, I RAISED WITH HIM QUESTION OF TIMING OF NEXT US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETING, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN TUNIS. I SAID THAT TUNISIAN MINISTER OF PLAN ZANOUNI HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR PRIOR LATTER'S DEPARTURE ON LEAVE THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO POSTPONE NEXT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING UNTIL SOME-TIME IN EARLY 1978, PERHAPS AFTER PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA'S PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON. I SAID THAT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH A POSTPONEMENT WOULD PRESENT US WITH NO PROBLEMS, AND IN FACT HIGH LEVEL US PARTICIPATION MIGHT BE FACILITATED BY SUCH A POSTPONEMENT. TURKI ASKED IF POSTPONEMENT MIGHT NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS REGARDING USG BUDGET CYCLE. I SAID THAT AS FAR AS I WAS AWARE, IT WOULD NOT. OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN AID PROGRAM THROUGH END OF FIVE YEAR PLAN WAS CLEAR, AND AID WAS NOW PLANNING SEVERAL YEARS AHEAD. I DID NOT THINK SLIPPAGE OF A FEW MONTHS IN JOINT COMMISSION DATES WOULD HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT.

2. TURKI SAID THAT BEFORE MAKING DECISION HE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR  
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OF COOPERATION HAMED AMMAR WHO RETURNING FROM LEAVE AROUND SEPTEMBER 1.

3. AS AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING, SAID AFTERWARDS IT IS ALMOST TOO LATE TO THINK REALISTICALLY OF AN OCTOBER MEETING. HOWEVER, I LEARNED AFTER MEETING WITH TURKI THAT AMBASSADOR HEDDA, WHO IS STILL IN TUNISIA ON LEAVE,

MAY BE CONTINUING TO PUCH FOR EARLIER JOINT COMMISSION MEETING  
AND MAY HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND  
OTHER SENIOR GOT OFFICIALS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, HEDDA  
OFTEN PURSUES INDEPENDENT POLICY ON JOINT COMMISSION MATTERS,  
WITH AIM OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON US FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE.  
AT THIS POINT BELIEVE BEST TACTIC IS NOO TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER  
DIRECTLY WITH HEDDA, BUT AWAIT RETURN OF AMMAR, BY WHICH TIME  
AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO BE BACK IN TUNIS.  
KING

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, EAID, TS, US, USTSJC  
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**Type:** TE  
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